

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

- 1 1. A data processing system for bulk data transfer comprising:
2 a source data processing system for distributing data to one or more target data
3 processing systems;
4 one or more fan-out nodes for transferring said data between said source
5 system and each of said one or more target data processing systems and transferring
6 result information between said one or more target data processing systems and a
7 preselected set of one or more data processing systems for managing data
8 distributions.
- 1 2. The system of Claim 1 wherein each of said one or more fan-out nodes is
2 operable for caching at least a portion of a data distribution and at least a portion of
3 said result information.
- 1 3. The system of Claim 1 wherein a data distribution has a preselected priority,
2 said preselected priority operable for determining an availability of resources for said
3 transferring of said data and said transferring of said result information.
- 1 4. The system of Claim 1 wherein said one or more fan-out nodes comprises a
2 plurality of fan-out nodes, and wherein said transferring of said data comprises:
3 receiving said data from said source data processing system by a first fan-out
4 node;

5 sending said data to a second fan-out node; and
6 sending said data from said second fan-out node to one or more of said target
7 data processing systems.

1 5. The system of Claim 1 wherein source data processing system distributes said
2 data in response to a request from at least one of said target data processing systems.

1 6. The system of Claim 5 wherein a preselected one of said one or more data
2 processing systems for managing data distributions enqueues said request in a
3 database.

1 7. The system of Claim 6 wherein said request comprises:
2 a list of target data processing systems to receive the data;
3 an identifier of a method by which the target machines will receive and
4 process the data; and
5 an identifier of a notification method by which said result information from
6 each endpoint system will be received by said preselected set of one or more data
7 processing systems for managing data distributions.

1 8. The system of Claim 6 wherein said request is assigned a preselected
2 distribution priority and said request is enqueued in accordance with said preselected
3 distribution priority.

1 9. A method for distributing data comprising the steps of:
2 transferring said data via a first set of one or more fan-out nodes to one or
3 more endpoint systems; and
4 transferring results information via a second set of said one or more fan-out
5 nodes from said one or more endpoint systems to a preselected set of one or more data
6 processing systems for managing data distributions, said results information
7 generated in response to said step of transferring said data.

1 10. The method of Claim 9 wherein each of said one or more fan-out nodes is
2 operable for caching at least a portion of a data distribution and at least a portion of
3 said result information.

1 11. The method of Claim 9 wherein said step of transferring said data is
2 performed in response to a request received from an application on at least one of said
3 plurality of endpoints.

1 12. The method of claim 11 wherein said request includes:
2 a list of target data processing systems to receive the data;
3 an identifier of a method by which the target machines will receive and
4 process the data; and
5 an identifier of a notification method by which said result information from
6 each endpoint system will be received by said preselected set of one or more data
7 processing systems for managing data distributions.

1 13. The method of Claim 10 further comprising the steps of:
2 assigning one of a preselected set of priority values to each data distribution;
3 and
4 determining an availability of a network connection for said step of
5 transferring said data in response to said one of said preselected set of priority values.

1 14. The method of Claim 11 further comprising the step of determining an
2 availability of a network connection for said transferring of results information in
3 response to said one of said preselected set of priority values.

1 15. The method of Claim 13 further comprising the steps of:
2 assigning a distribution lifetime value to each data distribution; and
3 aborting said step of transferring said data in response to an unavailability of
4 said connection for a time interval corresponding to said distribution lifetime.

1 16. A computer program product embodied in a machine readable storage
2 medium, the program product including programming for distributing data
3 comprising instructions for:
4 transferring said data via a first set of one or more fan-out nodes to one or
5 more endpoint systems; and
6 transferring results information via a second set of said one or more fan-out
7 nodes from said one or more endpoint systems to a preselected set of one or more data
8 processing systems for managing data distributions, said results information
9 generated in response to said step of transferring said data.

1 17. The program product of Claim 16 wherein each of said one or more fan-out
2 nodes is operable for caching at least a portion of a data distribution and at least a
3 portion of said result information.

1 18. The program product of Claim 16 wherein said instructions for transferring
2 said data are performed in response to a request received from an application on at
3 least one of said plurality of endpoints.

1 19. The program product of claim 18 wherein said request includes:
2 a list of target data processing systems to receive the data;
3 an identifier of a method by which the target machines will receive and
4 process the data; and

5 an identifier of a notification method by which said result information from
6 each endpoint system will be received by said preselected set of one or more data
7 processing systems for managing data distributions.

1 20. The program product of Claim 17 further comprising instruction for:
2 assigning one of a preselected set of priority values to each data distribution;
3 and
4 determining an availability of a network connection for said step of
5 transferring said data in response to said one of said preselected set of priority values.

1 Sub 21. The program product of Claim 18 further comprising instructions for
2 Ab determining an availability of a network connection for said transferring of results
3 information in response to said one of said preselected set of priority values.

1 22. The program product of Claim 20 further comprising instructions for:
2 assigning a distribution lifetime value to each data distribution; and
3 aborting said step of transferring said data in response to an unavailability of
4 said connection for a time interval corresponding to said distribution lifetime.